

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Of claims 1-5 that were pending in the application, claims 1, 4, and 5 were rejected in the Office Action. Applicants greatly appreciate the allowance of claims 2 and 3. By way of this amendment, Applicants have cancelled rejected claims 1, 4, and 5, without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, a typographical correction has been made to claim 2. Accordingly, only allowed claims 2 and 3 remain pending. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested.

1. Rejections of Claim 1, 4, and 5

The Examiner rejected: (a) claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,269,726 ("Swanson"); and (b) claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious when considering Swanson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,464,303 ("Reuschel"). Without acquiescing to the propriety of these rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are now moot due to the cancellation herein of claims 1, 4, and 5, without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejections should be withdrawn and the application allowed to issue. Moreover, Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 1, 4, and 5 by way of a continuation application.

2. Conclusion

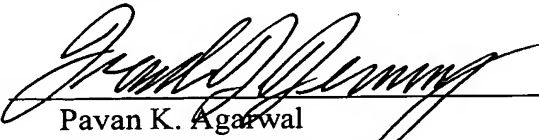
For the aforementioned reasons, claims 2 and 3 are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such communication would expedite the prosecution of the application.

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Date _____

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Respectfully submitted,

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THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED REGARDING THIS APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. SHOULD NO PROPER PAYMENT BE ENCLOSED HERewith, AS BY A CHECK BEING IN THE WRONG AMOUNT, UNSIGNED, POST-DATED, OTHERWISE IMPROPER OR INFORMAL OR EVEN ENTIRELY MISSING, THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE THE UNPAID AMOUNT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. IF ANY EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE NEEDED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF PAPERS SUBMITTED HERewith, APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR SUCH EXTENSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 AND AUTHORIZES PAYMENT OF ANY SUCH EXTENSIONS FEES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741.